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FORD, J. H. *Cost of our national government*. Columbia University Lectures, George Blumenthal Foundation. (New York: Macmillan. 1910. Pp. xv, 147. \$1.60.)

HIRST, F. W. and PAISH, G. *The credit of nations; and trade balance of the United States*. National Monetary Commission. (Washington. Sen. Doc., No. 579. 1910.)

The contribution by Mr. Hirst, editor of the *Economist*, summarizes the history of the national debts of Great Britain, Germany, France, and the United States. For the most part the author follows the writings of well-known writers. The essay by Mr. Paish, editor of *The Statist*, is critical in character; he discusses the effect of capital investments upon trade; and makes independent calculations of Europe's investments in the United States, and of the remittances made by the United States to Europe in the settlement of trade balances, by tourists, to friends, for freight, and insurance. It is concluded that this country has to make an annual payment of about \$595,000,000 for purposes other than the purchase of foreign goods. The inquiry is reinforced by several pages of useful tables.

SCHÖNBERG, L. *Die Technik des Finanzhaushalts der deutschen Städte im Mittelalter*. (Stuttgart: Cotta. 1910. Pp. xiv, 199. 4.20m.)

WITTMAYER, L. *Eigenwirtschaft der Gemeinden und Individualrechte der Steuersahler*. (Leipzig: Duncker and Humblot. 1910.)

A juristic study of the rights and duties of the French taxpayer in his relation to the local administration.

Population and Migration

Report on Industrial Employment of Married Women and Infantile Mortality. (Birmingham, England: Health Department. 1910. Pp. 27.)

A study was made of two wards in Birmingham for the year 1908, to determine whether the industrial employment of mothers prejudicially affected their own health, or the health of their infants. These two wards selected had a greater density of population, and the industrial employment of women was more common in this section. The economic and social position of the families in which the mothers were industrially employed was similar to that of the families where the mothers were in the home during the year in question. There were 1,503 children born alive in these wards during 1908, and 39 still-births. It was impossible to study all of the children during the first year of life, but there were 1,212 mothers who could be followed throughout this year. Of these 601 were not industrially employed during pregnancy and 611 were so employed. 31.5 per cent of the mothers were employed after the birth of their children, and 68.5 per cent were not

employed. The homes were visited several times during the year by a health officer and all of the children who were alive at the end of the first year were weighed. The mortality among the children born of mothers employed either before or after child-birth was at the rate of 190 per 1,000 births, while among those not industrially employed it was 207 per 1,000 births.

It would not be safe to judge from these figures that the employment of women immediately before or after parturition is desirable, but it appears that in homes of this character the industrial employment of women is not an unmixed evil. The earnings of the mothers who were employed enabled the family to enjoy certain comforts of which they would otherwise have been deprived. One of the causes of a high infant mortality is extreme poverty, and this was to a considerable extent relieved by the employment of the mothers. There may also have been some artificial selection in that the more thrifty and energetic of the mothers were industrially employed, while the less ambitious were content to remain at home with fewer comforts. It is also extremely doubtful whether the regular light work in factories is more prejudicial to the health of the mother than the care of a household. The investigation also shows that in the larger families the mother was obliged to remain at home, while in the smaller families she was able to be employed outside the home.

The result of this and similar studies may have some effect upon legislation regulating the employment of married women. It is a question whether the additional poverty occasioned by forbidding the employment of mothers six months after confinement may not be a greater evil than their industrial employment.

W. B. BAILEY.

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Some Nativity and Race Factors in Rhode Island. By CAROL ARONOVICI. Reprint from the *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics of Rhode Island for 1909.* (Providence: State Printers. 1910. Pp. 202.)

It is possible in the state of Rhode Island to make a study of the effect of immigration upon that community with considerable success, because in addition to census data the Bureau of Industrial Statistics has gathered information in regard to the nationality, size of family, etc., of women employed in gainful occupations.